

Remarks

Applicants acknowledge with gratitude the allowance of all of pending claims 1-18.

Applicants respectfully submit that the requirement for correction of the formal matter identified by the examiner in numbered paragraph 4 of the Office Action is now moot for the following reasons. Applicants' representative telephoned the examiner on July 2, 2009, and explained in a voice message that contrary to the inadvertent indication at page 2 of the Preliminary Amendment filed February 22, 2006, no substitute specification accompanied the Preliminary Amendment. In fact, no substitute specification was necessary because the written description and claims were amended in accordance with the provisions of, respectively, 37 CFR § 1.121(b)(1)(i) and 37 CFR § 1.121(c)(2). Accordingly, in Applicants' Amendment filed February 11, 2009, the specification locations identified in the "Amendments to the Specification" section of the Amendment correspond exactly to the locations in the as-filed original specification.

The examiner returned the aforementioned call on July 8, 2009, and, in a telephonic interview, Applicants' representative summarized the above explanation. The examiner indicated that he would review the application file with regard to correspondence between the February 11 Amendment and the original specification.

The examiner telephoned Applicants' representative on July 17, 2009. The examiner indicated that he had reviewed the


U.S. Appln. No.: 10/568,830
Atty. Docket No.: P71027US0

application file and acknowledged the aforementioned correspondence between the February 11 Amendment and the original specification. The examiner stated that no submission of a substitute specification is now necessary, and that Applicants could reply to the Office Action by memorializing the aforementioned telephonic interviews.

In view of the foregoing, allowance of this application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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